



# National Park Week is here!

## April 21-27, 2003



National Park Week is a time for people throughout the nation to celebrate the 387 parks in our National Park System! The National Park System includes Yellowstone, Yosemite, Mount Rushmore, Gettysburg, the Washington Monument, and many more lesser known parks, monuments, and historical sites.

Sites in the National Park System are set aside for their natural, cultural, and/or historical significance. Parks provide us with the chance to relive moments in history, view scenic grandeur, and learn about diverse cultures that exist in the present as well as the past.



What can you do in a National Park? You can camp, hike, climb a mountain, watch bears, caribou, and birds, visit historic buildings, attend interpretive programs, participate in a Jr. Ranger Program, or purchase a book about the park and its history, culture, and wildlife.

Here in Alaska, we have seventeen National Parks and affiliated areas:

- Aniakchak Monument & Preserve
- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
- Cape Krusenstern National Monument
- Denali National Park & Preserve
- Gates of the Arctic National Park
- Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
- Katmai National Park & Preserve
- Kenai Fjords National Park
- Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
- Kobuk Valley National Park
- Lake Clark National Park & Preserve
- Noatak National Preserve
- Sitka National Historical Park
- Wrangell St. Elias National Park & Preserve
- Yukon-Charley Rivers National Park & Preserve
- Aleutian World War II National Historic Area
- Inupiat Heritage Center

## Interested in Learning More about National Parks?

## Be a WebRanger!



Now you can be a Ranger even if you are not able to visit a national park. Just by logging on, you become a member of a growing group of young people who are interested in the world around them... WebRangers. Visit various ranger stations on-line to complete activities and earn rewards. Visit WebRangers at [www.nps.gov/webangers](http://www.nps.gov/webangers) beginning April 21, 2003. Experience your national parks in a whole new way!

Other student and teacher resources:

Visit the kids pages at various national parks throughout the country by going to [www.nps.gov/learn](http://www.nps.gov/learn). Check out Lake Clark, Denali, or even Yellowstone National Park... and learn about what makes our parks so special!



People and Parks: A place of fun and learning for all ages.

# Alaska Public Lands Information Center Celebrates with a Jelly Bean Poll and Art Contest

Alaska Public Lands Information Center in partnership with the National Park Service will be celebrating National Park Week with a Jelly Bean Poll and Art Contest. Visitors to the Center will be voting for their favorite Alaskan park by placing a jelly bean into a jar labeled with their favorite park's name. All votes are welcome; the tally will take place May 2nd. Last year's winner was Denali National Park and Preserve.

## National Park Week Art Contest "My Favorite Alaskan Park"

Students K-6 are invited to submit artwork in keeping with the theme: "My Favorite Alaskan Park." Artwork is not restricted to size or media and may be mailed or dropped by Alaska Public Lands Information Center at 605 West Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501 by Friday May 2nd. Prizes will be awarded!

All displays will be exhibited at the Center for the month of May. Involve your class in appreciating our national parks! Call Joanne Welch at 271.2741 for more information.

### Alaska Public Lands Information Center

Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center is an interagency facility managed by the National Park Service. The Center represents eight different state and federal agencies in helping to provide visitors and residents with meaningful, safe, enjoyable experiences on public lands while encouraging them to sustain the natural and cultural resources found therein.

#### Alaska Public Lands Information Center

605 West Fourth Avenue Suite 105  
Anchorage, AK 99501

#### Phone

907 271-2741

#### E-mail

joanne\_welch@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



A 2002 National Park Week winning entry.

## Amazing Park Facts

- The tallest mountain in North America is Mount McKinley at 20,320 feet in **Denali National Park & Preserve**.
- The largest National Park in the entire system is **Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve** with 13,200,000 acres (the size of six Yellowstones). It includes nine of the sixteen highest peaks in the United States.
- Two National Parks are north of the Arctic Circle: **Gates of the Arctic** and **Kobuk Valley**.
- The National Park Service has two new affiliated areas in Alaska: the **Aleutian World War II National Historic Area** in Unalaska commemorates the role of the Aleut people and the Aleutian Islands in the of the United States in World War II. The **Inupiat Heritage Center** in Barrow commemorates the contribution of Alaska Natives to the history of commercial whaling in the United States.
- In 2002, National Parks throughout the nation hosted over 421.3 million visitors. Alaskan National Parks visitation numbered nearly 2